

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, GR, CY

SUBJ: CYPRUS: FM TETENES UNDERSCORES SUPPORT FOR
INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS IN PRESS CONFERENCE

1. SUMMARY. AT WEEKLY MEETING WITH GREEK PRESS MAR 29
GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER TETENES SAID GOG CONTINUES TO
SUPPORT INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS IN ACCORDANCE WITH 1968
DECLARATION OF UNSYG. TETENES CHARACTERIZED SOVIET
APPROACH AS FRIENDLY COMMUNICATION AND NOTED GOG SATISFACTION
WITH MAKARIOS' STATEMENT CALLING FOR DISBANDING OF PARA-
MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS. ALTHOUGH NOT REPORTED IN ATHENS
PRESS, TETENES IN RESPONSE TO QUERY DENIED EXISTENCE OF
TENSION IN GOG/GOT RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. ANSWERING QUERY RE GREEK POSITION ON RECENT REMARK
BY TURKISH PM REGARDING FEDERAL SOLUTION IN CYPRUS, TETENES
STATED THAT "GREECE'S POLITICAL LINE ON CYPRUS ISSUE HAS
BEEN REPEATEDLY EXPRESSED. GOG POSITION CONSISTS OF
SEEKING PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO CYPRUS PROBLEM ENSURING
INDEPENDENT, SOVEREIGN AND UNITARY STATE, IN ACCORDANCE
WITH RELEVANT DECLARATION OF UN SEC GEN, WHICH
HAD BEEN ACCEPTED BY ALL INTERESTED PARTIES SINCE OPENING
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OF INTER-CYPRIOT TALKS IN SPRING 1968". TETENES ADDED

THAT IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE SUCH SOLUTION, GOG CONTINUED TO SUPPORT PROCEDURE OF INTER-CYPRIOT TALKS AND TO MAKE EVERY POSSIBLE EFFORT FOR THEIR SUCCESS AS ONLY MEANS WHICH COULD ENSURE PEACEFUL HAPPY EXISTENCE FOR BOTH ELEMENTS ON ISLAND. (COMMENT: TETENES' REPEATING OF STANDARD GOG POLICY LINE WOULD SEEM DESIGNED TO PRODUCE SOOTHING EFFECT IN RECENT TANGLE OF RUMORS AND MANEUVERINGS IN CYPRUS SITUATION. WHETHER TETENES SPEAKS AUTHORITATIVELY IS UNCLEAR IN EXISTING CONFUSED CHAIN OF AUTHORITY IN GREECE, BUT IT SEEMS SAFE TO ASSUME IN MATTERS AS IMPORTANT AS CYPRUS AND GOG RELATIONS WITH TURKEY HIS SCRIPT IS APPROVED AT HIGHEST LEVEL.)

3. IN REPLY TO SEPARATE QUESTION ON SOVIET REPRESENTATIONS OF MAR 24 (ACCORDING TO SEMI-OFFICIAL ATHENS NEWS AGENCY) FOREIGN MINISTER DENIED IT WAS "DEMARCHE," EXPLAINING THAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR HAD INFORMED GREEK FOREIGN MINISTRY IN FRIENDLY COMMUNICATION THAT SOVIET GOVT, AS IT HAS ALSO STATED IN PAST, FAVORED AN INDEPENDENT, INTEGRAL, AND SOVEREIGN CYPRIOT STATE. (COMMENT: TETENES APPEARS TO BE PUTTING SOVIET REPRESENTATION IN BEST POSSIBLE LIGHT AS EXPRESSION OF SOVIET VIEWS IN SUPPORT OF MUTUALLY HELD OBJECTIVE OF "INDEPENDENT, INTEGRAL, AND SOVEREIGN CYPRUS." GIVEN NEW REGIME'S SENSITIVITY TO ANY ALLEGED "INTERVENTION" IN ITS INTERNAL AFFAIRS, WITH WHICH REGIME PROBABLY EQUATES GOG-GOC RELATIONS, IT IS NOT SURPRISING GREEKS CHOSE TO PLAY DOWN SOVIET INITIATIVE. IN ASSESSING IMPACT OF SOVIET DEMARCHE WE FIND INTERESTING DENKTASH'S STATEMENT (FBIS 290851) IN AFP INTERVIEW "THAT SOVIET ELEMENTS WOULD LIKE TO UPSET NEW GREEK REGIME'S DESIRE TO EXCLUDE COMMUNISTS FROM ISLAND'S POLITICAL LIFE. PRESIDENT MAKARIOS WOULD INTERPRET SUCH INTENTION ON PART OF ATHENS AS ATTEMPT TO DEPRIVE HIM OF HIS MAIN POLITICAL SUPPORT, THAT OF THE COMMUNISTS.")

4. TETENES IN SAME PRESS CONFERENCE ALSO REMARKED ON GOG'S BEING PARTICULARLY SATISFIED TO LEARN OF STATEMENT OF MAKARIOS ON NEED FOR DISBANDMENT OF PARASTATE ORGANIZATIONS IN CYPRUS AND HANDING OVER OF THEIR ARMS. "THE GOG IS CERTAIN THAT THEY WILL OBEY THE VOICES OF LEADERS OF
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CYPRIOT STATE." GREEK GOVT BY INVOKING PATRIOTIC SENTIMENTS OF CYPRIOTS, REITERATES ITS PERSISTENT RECOMMENDATION FOR THE DISBANDING AND DISARMING OF ALL GROUPS IN CYPRUS, REGARDLESS OF ORIENTATION. (COMMENT: WHILE MAKARIOS AND TETENES HAVE CROSSED PRIMARY TARGETS-- EOKA-B FOR MAKARIOS AND TRU AND LYSSARIDES BAND, ETC. FOR GOG--THEY CAN TAKE SOME COMFORT IN JOINING HANDS IN DECLARING OPPOSITION TO ILLEGAL ORGANIZATIONS AND VIOLENCE.)

5. LASTLY TETENES COMMENTED ON RELATIONS WITH TURKEY. FM DENIED ANY TENSION IN RELATIONS AND CITED HIGH LEVEL GOT ATTENDANCE AT MAR 25 INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS IN ANKARA AND SUCCESSFUL PERFORMANCES OF GREEK NATIONAL THEATER TROUPE ON TOUR IN ANKARA AS ILLUSTRATIVE OF ABSENCE OF TENSION. TETENES ALSO REMARKED THAT HE WAS UNAWARE OF ANY GREEK/TURKISH INCIDENTS IN RECENT NATO EXERCISE. (ATHENS 1969). (COMMENT: ATHENS PRESS DID NOT REPORT TETENES' COMMENTS ON TURKEY, ALTHOUGH SEPARATE NEWS ITEMS APPEARED ON SUCCESSFUL NATIONAL THEATER TOUR AND HIGH-LEVEL TURKISH ATTENDANCE AT MAR 25 RECEPTION. TETENES' PURPOSE SEEMED TO BE TO MINIMIZE ANY CONCERN OVER CYPRUS ARISING FROM SOVIET INITIATIVE, PROBLEMS IN INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS, RUMORS OF PLANS TO OVERTHROW MAKARIOS, ALLEGATIONS OF SECRET ATHENS/ANKARA CONTACTS FOR A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT, AND DISAGREEMENT WITH GOC OVER NATIONAL GUARD CADETS. CLEARLY GOC LEADERS REMAIN INTERESTED IN COUNTERING LEFTIST INFLUENCE IN CYPRUS AND INTEND USE AVAILABLE MEANS--NATIONAL GUARD, EOKA-B--TO THIS END. ALTHOUGH TETENES TAKES MODERATE AND REASONABLE APPROACH, STRONGLY ANTI-COMMUNIST AND NATIONALISTIC ELEMENTS WITHIN JUNTA MAY WELL BE PRESSING GOC LEADERS TO TAKE TOUGHER LINE WITH MAKARIOS AND WITH GOT.)
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